

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (previously presented): A barbed suture for connecting human or animal tissue, said suture comprising (a) an elongated body having a first end and a second end and (b) a plurality of barbs projecting from the body, each barb facing in a direction and being adapted for resisting movement of the suture, when in tissue, in an opposite direction from the direction in which the barb faces, the barbs having a disposition on the body selected from the group consisting of a twist cut multiple spiral disposition, an overlapping disposition, a random disposition, and combinations thereof.

Claim 2 (currently amended): A barbed suture for connecting human or animal tissue, said suture comprising (a) an elongated body having a first end and a second end and (b) a plurality of barbs projecting from the body, each barb facing in a direction and being adapted for resisting movement of the suture, when in tissue, in an opposite direction from the direction in which the barb faces, the barbs having a disposition on the body selected from the group consisting of a ~~staggered disposition~~, a twist cut multiple spiral disposition, an overlapping disposition, a random disposition, and combinations thereof, and the barbs are all facing in a direction toward only one of the first end and the second end.

Claim 3 (currently amended): A barbed suture for connecting human or animal tissue, said suture comprising (a) an elongated body having a first end and a second end and (b) a plurality of barbs projecting from the body, each barb facing in a direction and being adapted for resisting movement of the suture, when in tissue, in an opposite direction from the direction in which the barb faces, the barbs having a disposition on the body selected from the group consisting of a ~~staggered disposition~~, a twist cut multiple spiral disposition, an overlapping disposition, a random disposition, and combinations thereof, and the barbed suture has at least a first barbed

portion and a second barbed portion, wherein the barbs of the first portion are facing in a direction toward only the first end and the barbs of the second portion are facing in a direction toward only the second end.

Claim 4 (currently amended). ~~The barbed suture according to claim 16,~~ A barbed suture for connecting human or animal tissue, said suture comprising (a) an elongated body having a first end and a second end and a diameter and (b) a plurality of barbs projecting from the body, each barb facing in a direction and being adapted for resisting movement of the suture, when in tissue, in an opposite direction from the direction in which the barb faces, wherein:

- (I) the barbs have a disposition on the body selected from the group consisting of a staggered disposition, a twist cut multiple spiral disposition, an overlapping disposition, a random disposition, and combinations thereof, and
- (II) the barbs have a configuration selected from the group consisting of a barb cut angle  $\theta$  ranging from about 140 degrees to about 175 degrees, a barb cut depth with a ratio of the barb cut depth to the suture diameter ranging from about 0.05 to about 0.6, a barb cut length with a ratio of the barb cut length to the suture diameter ranging from about 0.2 to about 2, a barb cut distance with a ratio of the barb cut distance to the suture diameter ranging from about 0.1 to about 6, a corrugated barb underside, an arcuate barb base, at least two sets of barbs with each set having a barb size different from the barb size of the other set, and combinations thereof,

wherein the staggered disposition includes a first set of the barbs being radially spaced about 180 degrees from a second set of the barbs.

Claim 5 (currently amended). ~~The barbed suture according to claim 16,~~ A barbed suture for connecting human or animal tissue, said suture comprising (a) an elongated body having a first end and a second end and a diameter and (b) a plurality of barbs projecting from the body, each barb facing in a direction and being adapted for resisting movement of the suture, when in tissue, in an opposite direction from the direction in which the barb faces, wherein:

(I) the barbs have a disposition on the body selected from the group consisting of a staggered disposition, a twist cut multiple spiral disposition, an overlapping disposition, a random disposition, and combinations thereof, and

(II) the barbs have a configuration selected from the group consisting of a barb cut angle  $\theta$  ranging from about 140 degrees to about 175 degrees, a barb cut depth with a ratio of the barb cut depth to the suture diameter ranging from about 0.05 to about 0.6, a barb cut length with a ratio of the barb cut length to the suture diameter ranging from about 0.2 to about 2, a barb cut distance with a ratio of the barb cut distance to the suture diameter ranging from about 0.1 to about 6, a corrugated barb underside, an arcuate barb base, at least two sets of barbs with each set having a barb size different from the barb size of the other set, and combinations thereof,

wherein the staggered disposition includes a first set of the barbs being radially spaced about 120 degrees from a second set of the barbs and the second set of the barbs being radially spaced about 120 degrees from a third set of the barbs.

Claim 6 (previously presented): A barbed suture for connecting human or animal tissue, said suture comprising (a) an elongated body having a first end and a second end and (b) a plurality of barbs projecting from the body, each barb facing in a direction and being adapted for resisting movement of the suture, when in tissue, in an opposite direction from the direction in which the barb faces, wherein the barbs are in a twist cut multiple spiral disposition and the barbed suture is made from a suture filament having a portion that is twisted from about 2 to about 17 times per inch when the barbs are escarped into the suture filament to make the barbed suture.

Claim 7 (previously presented): A barbed suture for connecting human or animal tissue, said suture comprising (a) an elongated body having a first end and a second end and (b) a plurality of barbs projecting from the body, each barb facing in a direction and being adapted for resisting movement of the suture, when in tissue, in an opposite direction from the direction in which the barb faces, wherein the barbs are in a twist cut multiple spiral disposition and the suture has a spirality angle  $\alpha$  ranging from about 5 degrees to about 25 degrees.

Claim 8 (original). The barbed suture according to claim 7, wherein the suture has a spirality angle  $\alpha$  ranging from about 7 degrees to about 22 degrees.

Claim 9 (original). The barbed suture according to claim 8, the suture has a spirality angle  $\alpha$  ranging from about 12 degrees to about 18 degrees.

Claim 10 (previously presented): A barbed suture for connecting human or animal tissue, said suture comprising (a) an elongated body having a first end and a second end and (b) a plurality of barbs projecting from the body, each barb facing in a direction and being adapted for resisting movement of the suture, when in tissue, in an opposite direction from the direction in which the barb faces, wherein the barbs are in an overlapping disposition such that for at least two adjacent barbs, one being an overlapping barb and one being an overlapped barb, the overlapping barb has an underside and the overlapped barb has a topside where part of the underside of the overlapping barb is derived from part of the topside of the overlapped barb.

Claim 11 (original): The barbed suture according to claim 10, wherein the barbs are in an overlapping disposition such that for at least two adjacent barbs, one being an overlapping barb and one being an overlapped barb, each of the overlapping barb and the overlapped barb having a barb cut length, and the overlapping barb and the overlapped barb having a barb cut distance between them that is less than the barb cut length of the overlapped barb.

Claim 12 (original): The barbed suture according to claim 1, wherein the suture is made from a material selected from the group consisting of a bio-absorbable material, a non-absorbable material, and combinations thereof.

Claim 13 (original): The barbed suture according to claim 12, wherein the bio-absorbable material is selected from the group consisting of polydioxanone, polylactide, polyglycolide, polycaprolactone, and combinations thereof.

Claim 14 (original): The barbed suture according to claim 12, wherein the non-absorbable material is selected from the group consisting of a polymer, a metal, a metal alloy, a natural fiber, and combinations thereof.

Claim 15 (original): The barbed suture according to claim 14, wherein the polymer is selected from the group consisting of polyamide, polyester, polypropylene, polyurethane, polytetrafluoroethylene, polyether-ester, and combinations thereof.

Claim 16 (original): A barbed suture for connecting human or animal tissue, said suture comprising (a) an elongated body having a first end and a second end and a diameter and (b) a plurality of barbs projecting from the body, each barb facing in a direction and being adapted for resisting movement of the suture, when in tissue, in an opposite direction from the direction in which the barb faces, wherein:

- (I) the barbs have a disposition on the body selected from the group consisting of a staggered disposition, a twist cut multiple spiral disposition, an overlapping disposition, a random disposition, and combinations thereof, and
- (II) the barbs have a configuration selected from the group consisting of a barb cut angle  $\theta$  ranging from about 140 degrees to about 175 degrees, a barb cut depth with a ratio of the barb cut depth to the suture diameter ranging from about 0.05 to about 0.6, a barb cut length with a ratio of the barb cut length to the suture diameter ranging from about 0.2 to about 2, a barb cut distance with a ratio of the barb cut distance to the suture diameter ranging from about 0.1 to about 6, a corrugated barb underside, an arcuate barb base, at least two sets of barbs with each set having a barb size different from the barb size of the other set, and combinations thereof.

Claim 17 (original): The barbed suture according to claim 16, wherein the suture is made from a material selected from the group consisting of a bio-absorbable material, a non-absorbable material, and combinations thereof.

Claim 18 (original): The barbed suture according to claim 17, wherein the bio-absorbable material is selected from the group consisting of polydioxanone, polylactide, polyglycolide, polycaprolactone, and combinations thereof.

Claim 19 (original): The barbed suture according to claim 17, wherein the non-absorbable material is selected from the group consisting of a polymer, a metal, a metal alloy, a natural fiber, and combinations thereof.

Claim 20 (original): The barbed suture according to claim 19, wherein the polymer is selected from the group consisting of polyamide, polyester, polypropylene, polyurethane, polytetrafluoroethylene, polyether-ester, and combinations thereof.

Claim 21 (original): A barbed suture for connecting human or animal tissue, said suture comprising (a) an elongated body having a first end, a second end and a diameter and (b) a plurality of barbs projecting from the body, each barb facing in a direction and being adapted for resisting movement of the suture, when in tissue, in an opposite direction from the direction in which the barb faces, wherein:

- (I) the barbs have a disposition on the body comprising a staggered disposition, and
- (II) the barbs have a configuration comprising (i) a barb cut  $\theta$  angle ranging from about  $140^\circ$  to about  $175^\circ$ , (ii) a barb cut depth with a ratio of the barb cut depth to the suture diameter ranging from about 0.05 to about 0.6, (iii) a barb cut length with a ratio of the barb cut length to the suture diameter ranging from about 0.2 to about 2, and (iv) a barb cut distance with a ratio of the barb cut distance to the suture diameter ranges from about 0.1 to about 6.

Claim 22 (original): A barbed suture for connecting human or animal tissue, said suture comprising (a) an elongated body having a first end, a second end and a diameter and (b) a plurality of barbs projecting from the body, each barb facing in a direction and being adapted for resisting movement of the suture, when in tissue, in an opposite direction from the direction in which the barb faces, wherein:

- (I) the barbs have a disposition on the body comprising a twist cut multiple spiral disposition with a spirality angle  $\alpha$  ranging from about  $5^\circ$  to about  $25^\circ$ , and
- (II) the barbs have a configuration comprising (i) a barb cut  $\theta$  angle ranging from about  $140^\circ$  to about  $175^\circ$ , (ii) a barb cut depth with a ratio of the barb cut depth to the suture diameter ranging from about 0.05 to about 0.6, (iii) a barb cut length with a ratio of the barb cut length to the suture diameter ranging from about 0.02 to about 2, and (iv) a barb cut distance with a ratio of the barb cut distance to the suture diameter ranges from about 0.01 to about 6.

Claim 23 (original): A barbed suture for connecting human or animal tissue, said suture comprising (a) an elongated body having a first end, a second end and a diameter and (b) a plurality of barbs projecting from the body, each barb facing in a direction and being adapted for resisting movement of the suture, when in tissue, in an opposite direction from the direction in which the barb faces, wherein:

- (I) the barbs have a disposition on the body comprising an overlapping disposition, and
- (II) the barbs have a configuration comprising (i) a barb cut  $\theta$  angle ranging from about  $140^\circ$  to about  $175^\circ$ , (ii) a barb cut depth with a ratio of the barb cut depth to the suture diameter ranging from about 0.05 to about 0.6, (iii) a barb cut length with a ratio of the barb cut length to the suture diameter ranging from about 0.2 to about 2, and (iv) a barb cut distance with a ratio of the barb cut distance to the suture diameter ranges from about 0.1 to about 6.

Claim 24 (original): A barbed suture for connecting human or animal tissue, said suture comprising (a) an elongated body having a first end, a second end and a diameter and (b) a plurality of barbs projecting from the body, each barb facing in a direction and being adapted for resisting movement of the suture, when in tissue, in an opposite direction from the direction in which the barb faces, wherein:

- (I) the barbs have a disposition on the body comprising a random disposition, and

(II) the barbs have a configuration comprising (i) a barb cut  $\theta$  angle ranging from about  $140^\circ$  to about  $175^\circ$ , (ii) a barb cut depth with a ratio of the barb cut depth to the suture diameter ranging from about 0.05 to about 0.6, (iii) a barb cut length with a ratio of the barb cut length to the suture diameter ranging from about 0.2 to about 2, and (iv) a barb cut distance with a ratio of the barb cut distance to the suture diameter ranges from about 0.1 to about 6.

Claim 25 (new): A barbed suture for connecting human or animal tissue, said suture comprising (a) an elongated body having a first end and a second end and (b) a plurality of barbs projecting from the body, each barb facing in a direction and being adapted for resisting movement of the suture, when in tissue, in an opposite direction from the direction in which the barb faces, and each barb having a base, and the barbs having a staggered disposition on the body, staggered being that the suture has at least two sets of barbs that are offset with respect to each other, where the first set is aligned longitudinally on the suture and the second set is aligned longitudinally on the suture, and a plane perpendicular to the suture and cutting transversely through the suture and intersecting the base of a barb of the first set will not intersect the base of a barb of the second set.

Claim 26 (new): The barbed suture according to claim 25, wherein the barbs are all facing in a direction toward only one of the first end and the second end.

Claim 27 (new): The barbed suture according to claims 25, wherein the barbs of the first portion are facing in a direction toward only the first end and the barbs of the second portion are facing in a direction toward only the second end.